

be under no apprehensions. I have satisfied myself perfectly on this point & look upon it as the most important work in its results now going on in the Southern Country.

In relation to Nag's head, my conclusions are very satisfactory to *myself*. Genl. McRae<sup>21</sup> is the only person who has seen my report and he expresses an entire concurrence with my views.

I have much to say in relation to the Rail Road which I would rather not write, particularly as I shall have the pleasure of seeing you so soon.

A true Copy of a letter on file in the Executive Office.

M. C. Battle

P. Secty.

June 24th, 1840.

*From James Graham.*

U.

H. of R.,

July 3d, 1840.

The Deed is done, the Sub Treasury passed finally this House on yesterday: 124 in the affirmative, and 107 in the negative, majority 17. The Whigs had a number of members absent by sickness and otherwise. Fisher went off to N. C. and did not vote. If all our men had been present, and the *lawful* members of N. Jersey in their seats and this House had not *elected five men* in their stead, we would have defeated them by *one vote*. I spoke about Two Hours and a half against the Bill just before the vote was taken, and will write out my speech when I get time. We had a *real Row* in the House just after the Bill passed; some of the opposition members denounced the Measure as one which power had dictated. At length Pickins<sup>22</sup> (whom the opposition had tried to draw into the debate) rose and pawed and squalled like a Cat with its Tail in the Door and after foaming and frothing a considerable time, he closed by moving the previous

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<sup>21</sup> Alexander H. McRae, of New Hanover, soldier in the War of 1812, major general of militia for many years, and author of a manual of military organization and training. He was superintendent during construction, and later, president of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad.

<sup>22</sup> Francis Wilkinson Pickens (1805-1869), of South Carolina, was educated at the University of Georgia and South Carolina College, and became a lawyer. He served in the state legislature, 1832-1834, and was elected to congress as a nullificationist, and served from 1834 to 1843. He was minister to Russia, 1858-1860, and governor of South Carolina, 1860-1863.